

MINUTES
of the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
June 13, 2008
Room 321, State Capitol

The first meeting of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Oversight Committee was called to order at 10:10 a.m. on Friday, June 13, 2008, by Representative Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, co-chair.

Present

Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair
Sen. Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair
Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Sen. William H. Payne
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Rep. Nick L. Salazar

Absent

Sen. John T.L. Grubescic
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Sen. William E. Sharer

Advisory Members

Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros
Sen. Dianna J. Duran
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia
Rep. Ben Lujan
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

Staff

Gordon Meeks

Friday, June 13

Interim Committee Meeting Protocols

John Yaeger, deputy director of the Legislative Council Service, explained the rules for quorums. A voting quorum is 50 percent plus one of the voting members of the committee (six for the LANL Oversight Committee). He told the committee that, once a voting quorum is established, a quorum is presumed to exist unless there is an objection. For purposes of payment of per diem, there is a rule unique to interim committees that provides for special subcommittees to take testimony. A special subcommittee may be composed of enough members to equal a quorum, regardless of the number of voting members present, or five members that include the chair and one each from the house and senate democrat and republican caucuses. A special subcommittee may not take official action for the committee.

Mr. Yaeger said that if a special subcommittee or a quorum is not present, the legislative council has authorized the leadership of each chamber to make temporary appointments to a

committee in order for the committee or special subcommittee to meet and conduct business. The same restrictions on proportionality (house/senate and democrats/republicans) apply to the temporary appointments as for the regular membership of the committees.

He emphasized that only voting members may vote on formal actions by a committee. He also addressed the "blocking" rule. If a majority of voting members of a committee vote in favor of an action, but a majority of one house or the other vote against that action, the measure fails.

Relative to "housekeeping" and committee logistics, he told the members that the sound systems throughout the State Capitol have been adjusted to increase sensitivity and to prevent feedback. Members should be aware of whether the closest microphones are turned on and that the audience can hear them during their comment periods or during what are intended as private conversations. Seating capacity is limited, and because committees have gotten so big, seating at the dais will be for voting members, and auxiliary seats for nonvoting members will be provided in front of the dais.

The preliminary calendar was prepared by software written to minimize scheduling conflicts for voting members. There are many conflicts for nonvoting members that are unavoidable. Any changes to the proposed schedule will result in increasing the conflicts, including for voting members, so all committees are asked to adhere to the calendar schedule authorized by the legislative council. Any significant conflicts for specific committees will be reviewed, and the council will be flexible in considering requests for changes.

Questions and comments by committee members included:

- É that the scope of the blocking rule includes all committees created by the legislative council and most statutory committees;
- É the notification of legislative staff if members cannot attend a meeting; and
- É that absent members may not select a replacement.

Scope of Work, Meeting Schedule and Itinerary

The committee discussed the proposed scope of work suggested by the legislative council and the meeting schedule. The following meeting schedule was adopted without dissent.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 13	Santa Fe
August 8	Espanola (at the LANL Foundation Offices)
September 17	Los Alamos
October 29	Santa Fe

Items suggested for agendas included:

- É the Office of Nuclear Workers Advocacy;
- É current employees' committee;
- É small business development;
- É technology research collaborative;

É congressional funding for LANL;
É Congress' perceptions and policy for LANL's mission;
É update of removal of radioactive waste from LANL; and
É adequacy of funding from the Department of Energy (DOE).

Public Comment

Joni Arends, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, suggested that Assistant Secretary Rick Foley of the DOE be invited to testify.

The committee adjourned at 11:00 a.m.